

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Alienated since 1911.

Wednesday, November 21, 1990

Offices may get makeover

by Stephanie Conway

While student groups across McGill's campus fight for scarce office space, Students' Society executive may spend up to \$100 000 to spruce up their digs.

The executive spoke to architects last week for estimates on the complete renovation of office space. The proposed cost for renovations last year was \$80 000. But the plans have now changed, said Students' Society (SSMU) President Kate Morisset. The offices need more room for councillors and for centralizing files, according to Morisset.

"There is no room for our new computers. With so little space it is hard to do our jobs," said Morisset. Councillors need more space to hold office hours, she said.

According to Morisset, the renovations will help SSMU become

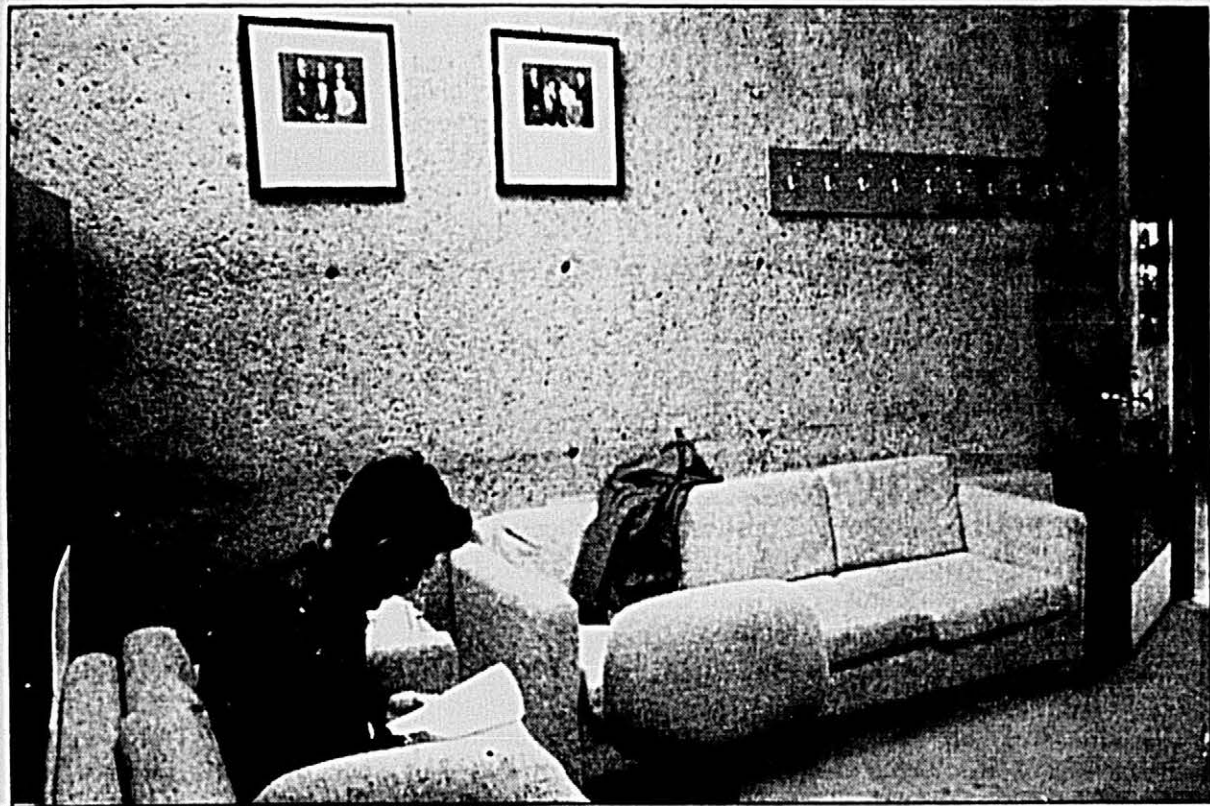
more accessible. "The back door is now open so people can come in and out," she noted.

But Daron Westman, grad rep to council, said the renovations are not necessary. Some councillors think there is a need for more space, but should be considering student priorities, he said.

The plans may include tearing out the existing safe, building archives, and expanding the reception counter, according to Westman.

SSMU will have to look at its financial situation before making a decision, according to Morisset. "The decision depends on whether we can afford to take more money from our capital reserve fund," said VP Internal Joanna Wedge.

According to Wedge, the executive must decide whether to do renovations all at once or in stages.



DAILY PHOTO: KATERINA CIZEK

What the hell is wrong with this?!

"We have to tell the architects to either work within the budget or to allow renovations based on their estimates."

The SSMU will form a renovations committee to make recom-

mendations. Wedge said the decision is on hold until a committee is formed. Council will vote on the recommendations in the next two weeks.

The University Centre Commit-

tee is considering renovations for the entire Union Building. Dark-room improvements and the expansion of fourth floor club space are priorities, according to Wedge.

Green Plan proposed to clean up McGill

by Anders Hayden

The first way to start dealing with the ecological crisis is by cleaning up your own house. So, some McGill students are looking into ways to make our own university a "greener" place.

A comprehensive environmental agenda for McGill is presently being prepared by the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG).

Although the plan is still far from complete, thirty preliminary recommendations have already been made for waste reduction, reuse and recycling, as well as energy conservation on campus.

QPIRG's proposals will be presented to the Students' Society (SSMU) Policy Review Committee on November 27. Some proposals are expected to be endorsed quickly by the committee and sent

to council, while other policies may need further study.

"The whole process is hoped to get SSMU and QPIRG to set the pace for university action," said Daron Westman of QPIRG. He points out that the university administration's recycling program began as a student project.

The QPIRG recommendations represent an environmental wish-list which is a first step toward real action. "We don't want to see people dragging their feet," said Aaron Freeman of QPIRG. "We know it's easy to get sidetracked."

According to Debbie Pentesco, Students' Society VP University Affairs, SSMU will look at the larger goals of the plan and then formulate tangible policies that can actually be implemented.

"We don't want policies that end up in a policy book and get

forgotten," said Pentesco. She added that "SSMU needs to look at how it can become a leader in the student community on these issues."

In addition to acting on QPIRG's recommendations where possible, SSMU can lobby the administration to act on issues like energy

conservation and water conservation.

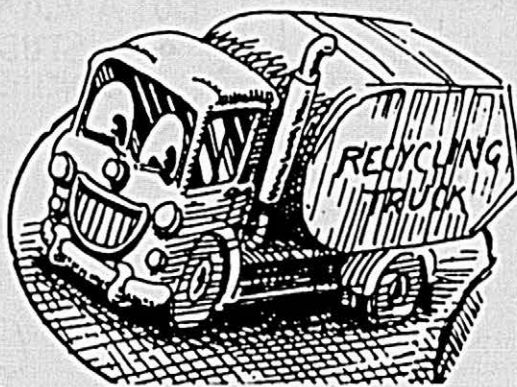
Freeman added that we need to be creative if we are to deal with environmental problems. He referred to the *Plumber's Faucet* newspaper, which has begun to use recycled paper and vegetable-based ink and increased its profile on campus in the process.

"It all boils down," said Freeman, "to a question of finding the will to find solutions and imple-

ment them."

Recommendations include

- a major campaign to encourage reduction and conservation
- upgrading photocopiers to copy on both sides and on unbleached paper
- a major reduction in the number of copies of campus newspapers printed
- the use of re-usable dishes and cutlery in cafeterias
- expansion of the recycling program to include glass, tin, plastic, coloured paper and newsprint
- composting of food waste, perhaps in conjunction with MacDonald College's composting project
- creation of a "swap shop" for used goods
- installation of devices to conserve water and energy



Toronto students form anti-war coalition

by Douglas Saunders

TORONTO (CUP) — York University students have formed an anti-war coalition to protest the presence of Canadian and U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf.

About 200 students took part in the coalition's first activity, a November 15 "teach-in". And organizers are expecting a big turnout at a November 24 rally.

"People don't like the war and find it bloody and unacceptable, but they haven't heard any reasons to oppose it yet," said Phil Jackson,

a coalition organizer.

David McNally, a political science professor in the coalition, compared the teach-in to similar actions taken during anti-war days of the Vietnam war.

"The important thing about the teach-ins in the mid-1960s was they allowed thousands and thousands of young people to hear the other side, what the media wasn't saying," he said.

He said a war in the gulf "would transcend the proportions of Viet-

nam both in terms of death and in the numbers of people involved."

Krissa Fay, a first-year arts student, said she joined the coalition "because I don't want to see a war happen in the gulf and I don't want to see Canada and the U.S. involved in it."

The coalition decided to only protest the presence of North American troops in the gulf and avoid political statements so none of the participants would feel alienated, organizers said.

Some campus groups, however,

support the North American presence in the gulf.

"We believe that Canada should support the international effort to fight Iraq's invasion and the rescue of Kuwait," said Menahem Neuer, a member of the Jewish Federation of Students.

"But we hope they would opt for the most humane approach," he added.

The York Arab Students' Association does not have an official position on the troops in the gulf, said Ziad Bouri, an association member.

"Personally, I feel this problem should be solved within the Arab League," Bouri said. "I am against all occupations, but I do not think the Iraqi invasion is an issue for Canada or the United States."

This week, McGill students are organizing a similar campus coalition of students, faculty, and groups. The fledgling coalition will meet Thursday at 19h30, at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer.

For more information on McGill's anti-war coalition phone 284-6834

Provincial tax on books hurts accessibility

by Heidi Modro

MONTREAL (CUP)—Student leaders are calling the provincial government's surcharge on the GST an assault on accessibility, especially where textbooks are concerned.

The provincial government has decided to place an eight per cent sales tax on top of the seven per cent federal Goods and Services Tax starting January 1. So Québec students will be paying about twice as much extra as their counterparts in the rest of the country.

The tax couldn't have come at a worse time, according to Nicholas Plourde of the Federation des Etu-

diantes et Etudiants du Québec. Over the next two years, Québec tuition fees, which had been frozen at \$540 since 1969, will be hiked 130 per cent.

"First the government slaps us with a fee increase, then we have a recession, and on top of everything else now they want to tax our textbooks," Plourde said. "I'm beginning to think the government has a deliberate policy to make us all quit school."

The cost of some textbooks could go up by as much as 32 per cent, said a spokesperson for the province's Coalition Against Taxing Books.

Herve Forol said the two taxes are expected to cause a drop in sales, which will drive up prices. A \$40 book could cost up to \$52 in as little as one year after both taxes kick in, he said.

"It's a vicious cycle," Forol said. "Because of higher taxes, there will be fewer sales. That will translate into higher production costs that will then be passed onto the consumer."

Many publishing houses and bookstores will also be forced to set up new accounting systems and hire new people to deal with the new taxes, he added.

About one third of the small

independent outlets may be forced to shut down because their thin profit margins won't be able to absorb the loss of sales and increased costs, Forol said.

"Students will find it much harder to find some of their course material because there will be far fewer stores that will be there to service their specific needs."

Québec's ministers of education and culture have come out strongly against the provincial tax on books, saying it will drive up the province's already high illiteracy rate and destroy its fledgling publishing industry.

In response to the internal criti-

cisms, the province's finance minister set up a special cabinet committee recently to study the effects of both taxes.

"Until the committee's report is released, there won't be any changes to our decision," said Monique Trudel, an aide to Finance Minister Gerard D. Levesque.

But Trudel said that even if both taxes do prove to have a negative impact on book sales, the tax may still remain in place.

"The tax won't necessarily be removed," Trudel said. "There are many other solutions that could be considered."

EVENTS

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Recycled paper sale. Stuff like computer paper, notepads, envelopes, giftwrap, postcards. Three locations: Leacock lobby, Thompson House foyer and Union lobby (3480 McTavish). 9h-17h.

"Between a Rock and a Hard Place" is a panel discussion on women, poverty and welfare law in Québec. Moot Court, Faculty of Law, 3644 Peel. 12h-2h.

Access McGill is having another meeting and you are welcome to come. Union 104, 3480 McTavish. 14h.

Meet UBC's constitutional guru Alan Cairns to talk about "Native Involvement in the

Constitutional Process". Info: 398-4294. Leacock 738. 12h.

Alan Cairns (see above) will lecture on Constitutional Minoritarianism. Leacock 424. 16h.

All women welcome to Women's Union general meeting to help plan events for next term. Union 423. 16h.

Progressive Zionist Caucus and Women's Union are showing a new documentary film called "Women in Black. Filmmaker Marie Hélène Cousineau will speak afterwards. Union 107/8, 3480 McTavish. Info: 284-5272. 17h.

"Troops Out of the Gulf: Oppose Tory War Plans" is what

the International Socialists are calling their public meeting in Union 425/6. Info: 284-6834. 19h.

"The Psychology of Racism" is a panel discussion organized by STAND and NDP McGill with Jack Jedwab, Pierre Bosset, Jacques Langlais and Sam Parkovnick. Union 301. Info: Howard at 845-9171. 19h.

Outing Club weekly meeting. Leacock 26. Info: 398-6817. 19h30.

McGill Jazz Bands II and III at Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke W. 20h.

Free improvised comedy by McGill Theatresports. The

Alley (basement of Union building, 3480 McTavish). 21h30.

Black Students Network is having its last meeting of the semester. Film and discussion for Black History Month. Multicultural Lounge, Union 401. Call 398-6815 to find out when it is.

Kirkegaard is dead, so he won't care if you look through his mail which is on display in the McLennan Library Lobby during regular library hours.

Cyanided fishies, find out why. "Endangered Spaces: Endangered Species" exhibit, Redpath Museum, second floor. 9h-17h.

Access McGill meets

Access McGill had its first meeting on November 7. Everyone was optimistic and enthusiastic about putting the monies available to Access to good use with the goal of increasing accessibility for the disabled at McGill. The people present are well aware that McGill's environment is not responsive to the needs of the disabled.

There was just one problem; there were no disabled students at the meeting. Those present were uncomfortable making plans and strategies for students with disabilities without their direction.

Access is a committee of Students' Society dealing with the needs of both learning disabled and physically disabled students on campus. It is responsible for assisting disabled students integrate into university life; it sensitizes the McGill community to the concerns of our disabled students; and it informs the University about the types of services needed by disabled students.

Access exists primarily to aid in increasing the accessibility of McGill to disabled students. To this end, work has been undertaken to reduce the physical, financial, administrative and attitudinal barriers to the recruitment, enrolment and participation of the disabled at McGill.

Access works closely with both Students' Society and the office of disabled students' services to accomplish those ends. In spite of this, Access' success depends on the level of direction it receives from students with disabilities.

All McGill students are encouraged to become members of Access. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 21 at 14h in Room 104 of the Student Union Building. If you need information, you can call us at 398-6786.

We have high hopes for Access. It cannot succeed, however, without the full and active participation of students with disabilities.

Access McGill



UNIVERSITY OF YORK

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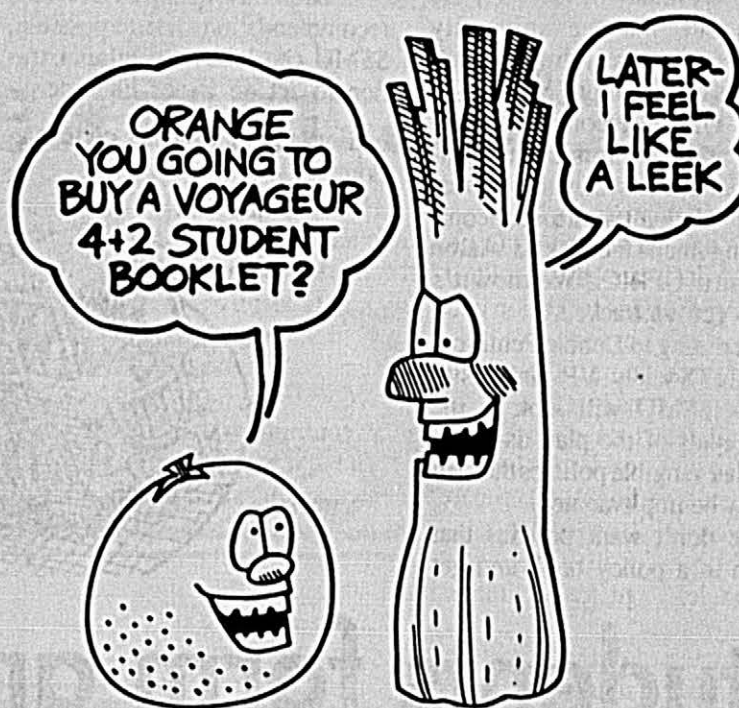
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Applications for September 1991 should be received by March 1, 1991.

The Faculty also offers an undergraduate degree programme leading to a Bachelor in Environmental Studies (BES). Information for all programmes can be obtained from:

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MIND YOUR VEGGIES!



Music students and staff hope their library's shuffle across the street is only temporary.

Why did the music student cross the street?

by Peter Clibbon

Music students will get a much-needed larger library in an office tower opposite the faculty's building on Sherbrooke. But the library will be closed during Christmas exams, and Music students and teachers hope the move is only temporary.

"Moving across the street is an improvement, but separating the library and the faculty is like moving the faculty's heart. Students and staff need constant access to their resources," said Music Department of Theory Chairman Steven Huebner.

"The move only represents a temporary solution to our space problems, the ideal solution being a new building," Huebner said.

"We're happy about the space but not so happy about having the library separated from the faculty," said Music student David Brulé. "Professors are always bringing recordings and other materials to class and the library needs to be in the building."

The move will trigger a major room reshuffling within the Strathcona Music Building and provide space for a new computer facility, additional rehearsal rooms and extra space for administration. The new library will also hold new listening and practising facilities.

But the move will take place during the examination and Christmas periods, and students will have no access to the library's main

collection. Library administration hope to ease student's inconveniences by extending book loan periods until next January, expanding reserve stacks and arranging an additional quiet study and listening room.

Professors have been asked to draw up lists of books, periodicals, and essential scores to be placed in the expanded reserves.

"It'll be inconvenient but the library now really sucks. Besides most of the materials I'll need will be on reserve," said music student Deborah Overes.

"Most of my professors have made special arrangements for the exam period, like re-scheduling deadlines before the library's closure," added student Michèle Raffaele.

According to Head Librarian Cynthia Leive, the move could not have taken place any other time.

"Moving over the summer would of been ideal, but too many problems prevented it. Moving over the examination period is not the best. However, there are only 30 seats in the library anyway," said Leive. There are over 700 students in the Faculty of Music.

The reflective-glass office tower already holds several McGill administrative offices, and the University is rapidly becoming one of the building's larger tenants. The library should re-open January 7, unless construction is delayed.

Strong preaches market ecology

by Dan Robins

He rarely spends more than a week at a time in any one country, and he could have been at a conference of Brazil university presidents, but Maurice Strong found the time to come to McGill Tuesday to talk about "ecosystems and ecosystems."

Strong was Canada's representative to the Brundtland Commission, which met from 1983 to 1987 to diagnose the state of the world's environment.

He has held posts in government, business, and diplomacy. His list of international awards and honorary doctorates are longer than both of McGill principal David Johnston's arms, according to Johnston himself.

He was here to talk about what has been done and what must be done in the wake of the Brundtland report.

The major result of the commission is an Earth Summit, to occur in Brazil in 1992, to help put into action some of the proposals made by the Brundtland Commission.

This summit, said Strong, will be the largest one ever, and "poten-

tially the most important."

On its agenda will be an Earth Charter to delineate basic ecological principles, plans for action and financing, legal agreements, and plans for providing technology to developing nations.

"It will focus on changes we must make in our economic behaviour," he said, adding that it is up to the industrialized nations to take the lead, as only they have the economic leverage to get things done.

He claims the changes will be "fundamental", but not completely radical. They will be accomplished, Strong said, within the present market economy.

"The best performing economies have made use of the market system," he said, saying the same was true of those economies that were dealing well (if not perfectly) with the environment.

As an example, he chose Japan. This market economy has made more progress in dealing with air and water pollution and in developing new technology than has any other country.

He said that he did not mean an unfettered market system, where the market became supreme. He favoured incentives to regulation, but said that some system must be in place to foster responsibility.

A common system

The changes, though implemented and inspired locally, must be made in a global context. He emphasized that the world we live in is one system, and a new ecological awareness "can only be based on common interest."

Locally, in Canada, "we haven't fully validated our good reputation on the domestic front," he said. (Think Alameda-Rafferty, think James Bay...)

"We shouldn't take our nice-guy image as a reason for complacency," he said. However, he refused to pass judgement before seeing the contents of the federal Green Plan, which is said to be nearing release.

He placed a strong emphasis on the dichotomy between the rich, industrialized north, and the poor, non-industrialized south.

A large part of the problem stems from having "a concentration of economic growth in industrialized countries, and of population growth in underdeveloped countries," he said.

Another problem is the unavailability of technology for these countries. With increasing competition in the fields of science and technology, the free flow of ideas is hindered, and the non-industrialized nations lose out.

For example, if China could upgrade some of its machinery, an easy but somewhat expensive process, it could double its GNP.

Like the Brundtland Report itself, he didn't deal with the question of whether the environment is actually capable of supporting the world's entire population at an industrial level.

If it is not, more radical changes will have to be made, involving a collective tightening of north-western belts. Consumerism and an economic addiction to growth would no longer be possible to the extent that they are present today.

Strong said, in fact, that 'no

growth' is not the goal of the Brundtland Report, a feature which has endeared it to business. 'No growth' would only result if the world's ecological problems are not solved soon.

The big problem with the whole restructuring process, he said, is the lack of political will. Politicians are easily distracted by other concerns, leading to "a struggle between the world's ecosystems and ecosystems."

Because environmental problems are long-term, they don't get the attention more immediate concerns do. This must change, because "the issues that press on us now will become no more than footnotes in history," he said.

Unfortunately, the future doesn't look so bright. "Intellectually you can get pretty pessimistic when you look at the evidence," he said.

However, he said that history is on our side. "When events compel us, things which look unrealistic become inevitable," he said. And certainly we must act as if change is possible - "the alternative would be self-fulfilling."

THE MCGILL DAILY

"If the clothes make the man, as they say, then that makes me a rampaging psychotic nerdball at large."
— Albert Nerenberg

COMMENT

LETTERS

Three hundred thousand and counting

The student protestors filling the streets of France are being chewed up and spit out in newspapers around the world. We should not be surprised. We watched the same thing happen locally last year in Québec.

"It's not like it was in '68," the papers say. Back then, students called for civil rights, liberation, and bucking authority. Now, the papers insist, students protest for order, campus security, and better jobs.

The media are exaggerating the contrasts and ignoring the context. They don't even wonder how 'dull' goals like these have brought hundreds of thousands into the streets, nor do they ask students why.

If we call for order, it's because we perch like birds on window ledges in classrooms jammed with hundreds of students. If we call for security, it's because women are shot and raped on our campuses. If we call for jobs, it's because most of our friends will wrap cellophane sandwiches in fluorescent malls for the rest of their lives.

And if we are out in the streets, it's because we're marginalized and alienated and estranged and confused and angry. The generation that grew up during the sixties, for all their rhetoric, passed on a violent and chaotic world.

The protests last week in France, like the demonstrations that tromped through Montréal's streets last Spring, are about far more than selfishness. Nostalgia addicts want to tell us the student movement withered and died when they grew up. Don't buy it.

Students are coming to realize the initiative toward university 'accessibility' has failed. The wealthy still maintain their own schools, or their own 'societies' within schools, and mould institutional conditions that would drive most mammals mad. Many students feel their degrees are worthless, and they are probably right.

The frustration is mounting. To say it is not, is to deny new developments in Canada and the U.S. where students are fighting racism, corporate control, and impending war. It is also a denial of the power of 300 000 students marching in the streets of Paris.

If the media wish to reduce the noise to a cry for more security guards on campus, they will be left behind. No generation is that stupid. We aren't.

Heather MacKay
Carl Wilson
Dan Robins

Pumped with propaganda

To the Daily:

Allan Friedman's letter to the Daily (Nov. 14) was truly incredible. The professor and doctor from the occupied territories the Daily interviewed were hardly "the most vicious and virulent of anti-Israeli sources." They represent the moderate mainstream, the Palestinian equivalent of liberal doves in the Israeli Labour Party. The PLO mainstream is about as radical as is the ANC mainstream in South Africa - largely older, professional, middle-class types. They are only radical to someone pumped full of Zionist propaganda.

One of the biggest confusions about the Israeli-Palestinian dispute this propaganda has created is the idea that the PLO's official policy is, or was, "to drive the Jews into the sea," as Friedman says. We could imagine an Apartheid supporter in South Africa spreading the same hysteria about the ANC's moderate positions.

In fact, the PLO supported until 1973 a secular, binational state for Jews and Arabs, and the abolition of the Jewish state, Israel. It's not an outrageous demand - most people find South Africa's white state offensive. In 1973, the PLO moved officially to a two-state solution for the two peoples, and the PLO National Council has affirmed this move in dozens of statements and policy decisions.

Allan Friedman, learn your history.
Tony Simon
Arts U3

Learning lessons

To the Daily:

On November 9, 1989 the East German army allowed citizens to effortlessly climb the Wall that had separated them from freedom for decades.

What followed was a thaw of international relations that paved the way for German reunification. After temporary external separation, a country was allowed to determine its own future as a united whole.

Unfortunately, skeptics like Naomi Fox (in her article "Racism not a memory: history repeats itself") approach this new atmosphere "sorrowfully and with much trepidation". She pleads that we must remember the past in order not to repeat it and uses the seven years of brutal Nazi atrocities as an argument against reunification. This strikes me as paranoia.

Since the division of the country, the western half has become a productive nation in the world community while its eastern counterpart has lagged under the burden of oppressive government. What was once West Germany became an integral link in European politics and the EEC, while what was East Germany is reported to have an abysmal environmental and human rights record.

Ms. Fox seems to be suggesting that anti-Semitism is inevitable in a unified Germany. It seems clear from the history she asks us to learn from that it is not Germany but the dictatorships it has been subjected to that foster anti-Semitism.

Freedom is a prerequisite for progress in civil rights and the future of a divided Germany has no such freedom. After watching the West on television, East Germans began to ask for the prosperity, equality and freedom that they deserved. The citizens began to ask for the self-determination that every human being deserves. How would Ms. Fox suggest this self-determination and freedom be limited — force? This too is reminiscent of the history she asks us

to learn from.

Not only is forced division regressive, it doesn't provide any means for the elimination of the problems within the country. Would fragmentation of South Africa provide a relief from white domination? Would fragmentation of Israel have prevented the Temple Mount incident?

Civil rights must be discussed internally by citizens equipped with the power of open debate and legislation. Outside influences are not going to stop anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe any more than the US army is going to relieve the condition of Islamic women in Saudi Arabia.

"Racism is alive and flourishing" but any argument against reunification that takes as a premise a distrust of the German people strikes me as racist. It is not fair to make a new generation pay for the errors of the past. Should the youth of Canada be held responsible for the internment of Japanese Canadians? Indeed we must learn our lesson from history, but let us hope we learn the correct lesson.

Patrick Miller
U2 Arts

Concern about gulf is good

To the Daily:

I am writing in a personal capacity to express support for the *McGill Daily's* concern about the rising tension in the Persian Gulf.

A majority of Québécois and Canadian people oppose Canada's participation in a war as the solution to this crisis. We do not have a clear idea of the cost of our intervention, nor the impact of the dollar cost on our social programs.

Whether "we" or "they" win, the people will lose in any war: higher inflation, tens of thousands of deaths, a mindless atmosphere of patriotic militarism, a shift in the global balance of power toward re-alignment of countries on a war footing. A war in the Persian Gulf would probably be a long conflict; it seems ridiculous to experience the end of the cold war only to fill the vacuum with another conflict.

The cost of war is also evident in the failure of our democratic process in deciding to intervene. This is the failure of our democracy to solicit input on the decision, to be accessible to the people, to be responsive to their demands and interests, and to act to prevent the energy companies from profiting from higher oil prices.

War is not a socially necessary activity. It is urgent that we have a wide-ranging public debate on the Gulf situation to re-think Canada's position and, hopefully, to bring our troops home — alive.

Frederick Sweet
Vice-President
Conseil Central de Montréal
(Confédération des
Syndicats Nationaux)

Help get troops out of Gulf

opinion by Chantal Sundaram and Deborah Murray

"Oil is worth going to war for." — Editorial, September, *Business Week*.
"America is in the region for one reason and one reason only: O-I-L." — Senator Bob Dole, *New York Times*, Sunday October 21.

Over the last few months, thousands of people have demonstrated in cities across the U.S. and Europe: On October 20, 25 000 marched in New York, 20 000 in Paris. They were drawn from many different groups and backgrounds: Vietnam War veterans, peace activists, anti-racism activists, feminists and many others.

What brought them onto the streets is a growing awareness that George Bush is about to start a war in the Middle East which could surpass even the horrors of Vietnam in its brutality. Chanting the slogans, "Hell, no, we won't go, we won't die for Texaco" and "No Blood For Oil", demonstrators pointed to the hypocrisy of the U.S. government in spending billions of dollars a month on troops in the Saudi desert while spending on America's homeless is cut yet again, while health spending is cut yet again.

And now Prime Minister Mulroney has announced further Canadian troops are being sent to the Gulf. We too could be dragged into a war. It's time we took a lesson from the many students in the U.S. actively campaigning for the U.S. to get out of the Gulf, for No More Vietnams. As students here at McGill we can provide a vital push to others to begin to oppose Mulroney's involvement in the Gulf, to call for the U.S. to get out of that region.

To be effective, though, we need to organize together all the individuals, clubs, faculty and students that oppose a war and make ourselves heard. There are many things we can do — from petitions to demonstrations, from meetings to public



forums. We can make a difference.

Most recently, anti-war coalitions at Berkeley and New York have information about military preparations indicating that the U.S. could begin the fighting as early as the end of this week — military hospitals are being put on alert. There is no time to lose; we have to organize now.

We want to have as broad a coalition as possible of people who agree with the need to get the troops out. If you or your club feel strongly about this issue please attend a founding meeting to set up a Troops Out/Anti-War coalition, Thursday, 22 November at the Yellow Door (3625 Aylmer, just north of Prince Arthur), in the basement, at 19h30. Everyone is welcome.

CANADIAN AND U.S. TROOPS OUT OF THE GULF!

For more information contact the authors at 284-6834.

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Protestors and police clash over Nitassinan

A three-month campaign against Canada's militarization of First Nations lands culminated last week with a series of protests in Ottawa. Turn-out was high, but alleged incidents of police violence and racism marred the non-violent rallies.

BY TREFOR SMITH

Protestors gathered at Parliament Hill last Saturday, calling for an end to low-level airforce flights over Innu encampments in northern Québec and Labrador. On Tuesday, a non-violent blockade of the Defence Department amassed over 1500 supporters, making it one of the largest of this year's many native rights rallies.

During the blockade, Ottawa police arrested 116 people. Witnesses say police were frustrated by failed attempts to forcibly move demonstrators from the entrances of the National Defence headquarters. An all-male police squad pulled some demonstrators by their hair, jabbing them with batons. Activists have lodged complaints against police racism and violence during the blockade.

One demonstrator arrested last Tuesday said police taunted Innu protestors with racial slurs. Muiss Penashue, an arrested Innu pro-

testor, said police threatened Innu with months of detention when they refused to speak anything but their own language. Arrested Innu demonstrators were not allowed interpreters.

These Innu leaders had walked over 1500 kilometres to lead Tuesday's blockade. They say the flights over Nitassinan constitute an occupation of their land. The flights take place 8000 times a year, courtesy of the airforces of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany.

"It's time for the Department of Indian Oppression to change its ways, and become a Department of Decolonization," said Conrad Sioui, Québec Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, at Tuesday's blockade.

Also present was Mohawk media spokesperson Ellen Gabriel, who challenged the government to live up to its promises and respect



DAILY PHOTO: NATALIE EDELSON

Activists have lodged a complaint against Ottawa police, for alleged violence and racism at a blockade demanding Innu rights, Nov. 13..

native concerns about sovereignty and land claims.

The government's Indian Affairs spokesperson, Helen Fisher, said last week's protestors did not represent the general Innu population. "There were very few Innu people at the Defence Department demonstration, and I heard that the rest were mostly environmentalists," she said.

Fisher would not comment on the low-level flights problem, saying Indian Affairs has no responsibility for the issue. "Talk to the Department of National Defence," she said.

Flights destroying way of life

For its part, National Defence denies low-level flights harm either the environment or the Innu people. The Department has advertised Nitassinan to NATO countries as a "wilderness interior devoid of human habitation."

Ten thousand Innu people hunt and trap in the region of Nitassinan. The low-level flights are practiced over a huge portion of Innu territory, an area three times the size of Belgium. The land has never been ceded to Canada by any treaty or land agreement.

Thirty-ton bombers fly as low as 30 metres over Nitassinan land and 20 metres over water, travelling close to the speed of sound. A direct over-flight can cause temporary hearing loss and a "startle effect" — a temporary loss of bodily co-ordination caused by the over-flight's sudden blast of sound.

The intensity of the noise is well over the range of human tolerance. The startle effect is in itself a violation of human rights, according to a 1986 report by the Paris-based International Federation of Human

Rights.

"The flights are destroying the animals and environment, and threatening my way of life," John Ashini, an Innu hunter from Sheshatshit, said at an Innu press conference last week in Hull.

Ashini said the warplanes jettison fuel into Nitassinan's rivers and lakes. The sound of the flights, 140 decibels at ground level, are disrupting caribou migrations.

"The planes fly more than 30 times a day, up to 17 times in one hour. We cannot stand it any more," said Penashue, who spoke recently at McGill. "The military also carries out night flights that terrorize our children and elders. We can't even sleep in our own country," she said.

The Innu escaped non-Native encroachment until the 1950s, when the "development" of the Labrador region began in earnest with large-scale hydro-electric projects, clear-cut forestry, and strip-mining. The airbase at Goose Bay, built in 1941 without Innu consultation, has been used as a spring-board for American-led NATO interventions in countries like Vietnam, Lybia, and most recently in the Persian Gulf. Today there are over 7000 flights between the months of May and November.

Military planners have decided to increase the number of flights in the immediate future. A June report in the *Toronto Star* said, "Low-level military flights in Labrador could more than double from existing levels despite cancellation of a proposed NATO flight training centre. Lt.-Col. Jean-Paul Chabot said flying could be increased to a maximum of 16 000 to 18 000 flights a year."

Several NATO countries have

severely curtailed low-level flights within their own national boundaries, because of laws restricting jet flights below certain altitudes. Germany, whose laws prohibit flights below 1000 metres, recently raised the possibility of moving its airforce — the Luftwaffe — to Nitassinan.

Internal colonialism

Ashini, chief of the Innu community of Sheshatshit, has said the Innu people live under colonial rule in Canada. In a recent book, *Drumbeat: Anger and Renewal in Indian Country*, Ashini says the Innu people, like other aboriginal nations, pay the human cost for Canada's technological progress and economic development.

The government has given resource companies a *carte blanche* on development in Nitassinan. Between 1979 and 1983 alone, \$8 billion were extracted from Nitassinan in minerals, hydro power and lumber, according to a study at the University of Toronto. Some estimates place the current figure at \$14 billion.

For the Innu, the social and psychological effects of low-level flights, along with resource-exploitation and Ottawa's assimilation programs, have been devastating. Alcoholism, family violence and suicide rates have exploded in recent years.

Some Innu suggest the government is waiting for low-level flights to drive them off the land. Ottawa has stalled for over a decade on comprehensive land claims introduced by the Innu community.

"If we are forced into communities, then we are easier to control, and the land is free for them to take away," said Muiss Penashue.



DAILY PHOTO: NATALIE EDELSON

Protestors on Parliament Hill last week called for end to flights.



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Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17:30.

Today in the Union lobby the 8th annual "Toys for Tots" charity drive sponsored by Phi Delta Theta. Bring toys and donations between 11 am and 3 pm.

A special thank-you goes out to everyone who helped to make Phi Delta Theta's "Hearts for the Homeless II" a great success.

Stressed out?? Get tips on how to cope at the exam drop-in. Redpath Library, main entrance, room 07A. Monday to Thursday 1-4 pm. Nov. 19th - Dec. 13. McGill Chaplaincy, 398-4104.

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Philosophic Fragments, the McGill undergraduate journal of philosophy, is looking for editors. Leave your name & phone number in the PSA mailbox, Leacock, 9th floor.

Access McGill. Another meeting! Wednesday, November 21 at 2:00 pm in rm. 104 of the Union Building. Everyone welcome

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